

CHAPTER NO. 584

SENATE BILL NO. 3451

By Crutchfield, Dixon, Curtis S. Person, Jr.

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3541

By McMillan, Sontany

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37-1-149, relative to guardians ad litem and court appointed special advocates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-149, is amended by renumbering the current subsection (a) as (a)(1) and adding a new subdivision designated as (a)(2):

(2) Any guardian ad litem appointed by the court shall receive training appropriate to that role prior to said appointment.


SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-149 (b)(1), is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(b)(1) The court may also appoint a nonlawyer special advocate trained in accordance with that role and in accordance with the standards of the Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates Association (CASA) to act in the best interest of a child before, during and after court proceedings.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: April 19, 2004**

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**APPROVED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2004**

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR